

# ***Conservative Support for the PATRIOT Act***

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## **Mark Levin, Lawyer, Author, Host of Syndicated Radio Show**

"While empowering the terrorist with new rights, thereby increasing the threat against Americans, the Statist claims violations of Americans' civil liberties with the passage of the post-9/11 PATRIOT Act." [3/24/2009](#)

"The Statist has also opposed the interception of enemy communications, such as email and cell-phone contacts, without approval from a court. But his position is contrary to all legal precedent, historical practice and highly impractical, given the speed by which such communications occur. Yet again he claims the practice threatens Americans' civil liberties. Where is the actual evidence of widespread civil liberties abuses against American citizens? It is nonexistent." [3/24/2009](#)

## **U.S. Senator Jim DeMint**

"The PATRIOT Act has been a vital weapon in our arsenal to win the War on Terror. [We] understand that we must use every tool available to defend ourselves against the threat of terrorism. The PATRIOT Act has already led to the arrest and prosecution of terrorists within the United States, and has strengthened the ability to control our borders." [3/2/2006](#)

## **U. S. Senator Tom Coburn**

"I'm confident the PATRIOT Act reauthorization strikes the necessary balance between protecting our rights guaranteed under the Constitution and giving law enforcement the proper tools to protect the country from the threat of terrorism. In fact, this legislation provides stronger protections for civil liberties than those in current law." [3/02/2006](#)

## **U. S. Congressman Allen West**

"I voted YES for these extensions and many of you called me a traitor and felt that I had turned my back on your 1st and 4th Constitutional rights. I shall NOT ALLOW the enemies of our State to find gaps in which they will exploit our misplaced benevolence." [2/16/2011](#)

## **U.S. Congressman Jeff Flake**

"Some of the most contentious fights in Congress come when the federal government must balance two responsibilities that can conflict each other, such as preserving civil liberties and effectively fighting domestic terrorism. The process that has created this bill exemplifies the way Congress ought to work. Debate was thorough and the process was fair, and I believe that it has created a bill that makes the country safer while protecting civil liberties." [7/21/2005](#)

## **Rudy Guliani, Former Mayor, New York City**

"It's about the opposition to extending the PATRIOT Act ... Both those things, interrogation & electronic surveillance, have to be done legally, but they have to be done aggressively. I detect in the Democrats a kind of attempt to go back to a pre-Sept. 11 mentality in which we're not anticipating." [05/14/2007](#)

## **Open letter from Conservatives regarding the extension of all provisions of the PATRIOT Act**

"We write to express our strong support for the USA PATRIOT Act and concern about misinformation about the necessary legal tools it provides to battle al-Qaeda and our other terrorist enemies ... For the security and safety of the American people, no provision of the PATRIOT Act should expire. Moreover, the temporary provisions should be made permanent." [10/23/2004](#)

## **Andrew C. McCarthy, Former Asst. U.S. Attorney, Lead Prosecutor of the "Blind Sheikh," Contributing Editor to National Review**

"Voting against the reauthorization of these essential counterterrorism tools is not striking a blow for limited government. It's mindless preening — the kind that makes you wonder if some of the people screaming about 'first principles' understand what the first principles are." [2/16/2011](#)

## **Ann Coulter, Author, Syndicated Columnist**

“Sen. John Kerry -- the man they wanted to be president -- called the PATRIOT Act ‘an assault on our basic rights.’ At least all ‘basic rights’ other than the one about not dying a horrible death at the hand of Islamic fascists. Yes, it was as if Congress had deliberately flown two commercial airliners into the twin towers of our Constitution.” [8/24/2006](#)

### **Michael Mukasey, 81<sup>st</sup> Attorney General of the United States**

“... There is a rear-guard action in Congress to make it more difficult to gather, use and protect intelligence—the only weapon that can prevent an attack rather than simply punish one after the fact. The USA PATRIOT Act, enacted in the aftermath of 9/11, is a case in point.” [10/01/2009](#)

“There is no sense in giving investigators in national security cases less authority than investigators in criminal cases, and in criticizing them for failing to connect the dots while denying them the authority to discover the dots.” [10/2/2009](#)

### **U.S. Senator Jeff Sessions**

“There is simply no reason to weaken the PATRIOT Act—and every reason not to. This extension keeps PATRIOT’s security measures in place and demonstrates that there is a growing recognition that these crucial provisions must be preserved. We are now one step closer to what is needed: a full, long-term reauthorization.” [2/25/2010](#)

### **Debra Burlingame, Co-founder, Keep America Safe, sister of the pilot of hijacked Flight 77 that was flown into the Pentagon on 9/11**

“If the PATRIOT Act had been in effect prior to 9/11, law enforcement agencies would have stood a far greater chance of disrupting the terror attack. ... It is imperative that we never allow ourselves to regress into the pre-9/11 mindset, which is exactly what will happen without a permanent extension of all provisions of the PATRIOT Act.” [3/9/2011](#)

### **Charles Krauthammer, Pulitzer Prize winning Syndicated Columnist**

“The PATRIOT Act revolutionized how we deal with domestic terrorism.” [10/26/2009](#)

### **U.S. Congressman Pete King, Chairman, House Committee on Homeland Security**

“The whole point of the PATRIOT Act is to allow for sharing of information and intelligence between local law enforcement, as well as our intelligence community. That’s the point. We want to take down these terrorist cells and operations before they become operational.” [2/14/2011](#)

“All the layers of defense President Bush set up after September 11 are working. The FBI is working more closely with local police, the PATRIOT Act, which allows roving wiretaps ... is essential. We have to have this, it’s absolutely essential.” [9/30/2010](#)

### **U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell, Republican Minority Leader**

“The PATRIOT Act is one of the critical tools for keeping America safe. This bipartisan extension provides the intelligence and law enforcement communities stability for the next few years in the use of these tools as they confront the threats that face the nation. We should not let these authorities lapse or make them more difficult to use.” [5/22/2011](#)

### **U.S. Congressman Lamar Smith, Chairman, House Committee on the Judiciary**

“Numerous terrorist attempts in the last 10 years have been thwarted thanks to the intelligence gathering tools provided in the PATRIOT Act and other national security laws, and if Congress fails to extend these provisions set to expire, it will be on our shoulders if the intelligence needed to stop the next attack is not collected.” [2/14/2011](#)

### **J. Adler, National President, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA)**

“Crime and terrorism will not ‘sunset’ and terrorists don’t need any ‘extension’ to continue their heinous activities. Just like handcuffs, this tool should be a permanent part of the law enforcement arsenal.” [2/8/2011](#)